

SAYS CITY GAINS TO BEGETTER BOARD'S SERVICE

Blair Would Abolish It
and Give Department
Heads Power.

MAKE MAYOR REAL CHIEF OF AFFAIRS

Former Councilman Outlines
New Government Plan Before
Committee on Charter Changes,
Transferring Board's Functions
to a Public Utilities
Committee.

"The creation of the Administrative Board was wrong in the beginning; events since have proved that it was wrong, and in time it will be abolished," said A. Blair, a former member of the Council, speaking last night before the Council Committee on Charter Changes.

Mr. Blair spoke in response to the general invitation of Chairman Puller to the citizens assembled in the Council Chamber to come forward with suggestions for changes to the city charter. He addressed himself pointedly to the Administrative Board's usefulness as a part of the city's machinery of government, and found nothing in the service performed by it since its creation to justify its further retention.

"I speak without personal feeling toward any member of the board," said Mr. Blair. "I voted for three of them, and two are my warm personal friends. What I say applies to the board as an administrative body, and I have a high respect for its personnel. I believe that we have given the plan a fair trial. The Administrative Board was only an experiment, and so far, I have not one iota of return for the \$10,000 which it cost."

Mr. Blair, who is now a member of the Charter Changes Committee, said that he would like to see the board abolished. He said that he would like to see the board abolished, and that he would like to see the board abolished. He said that he would like to see the board abolished, and that he would like to see the board abolished.

Instead of paying salaries to members of an Administrative Board, Mr. Blair would create a Public Utilities Committee, composed of public utility experts, who would have supervision over the water, gas, electric, and telephone departments, as well as market and other public utilities. The business of each department would be administered by the respective heads under the supervision of the Public Utilities Committee. The Mayor would be a member of this committee.

Mr. Blair would centralize responsibility and eliminate the overlapping departments now existing. He would have charge of streets, parks, public buildings, and other city property. He would have charge of the building inspectors' office, with full power to hire and discharge all employees. He would have charge of the street cleaning and health departments, whose activities have an important relation to one another, and should be under one management. The City Engineer, under his plan, would have charge of streets, parks, public buildings, and other city property. He would have charge of the building inspectors' office, with full power to hire and discharge all employees. He would have charge of the street cleaning and health departments, whose activities have an important relation to one another, and should be under one management.

Several citizens were on hand to witness the speaker's deliberations. Those who expected a long session were disappointed, however, as Mr. Blair picked no quarrel with the board, confining himself merely to the sketching of a more or less theoretical form of government, which, in his opinion, would be far better. The committee listened without comment, and took no action.

City Attorney Reports.
The greater part of the evening was consumed in the report of the City Attorney on suggested changes in the city charter. Most of these suggestions define more clearly the relations between the Administrative Board and the City Council.

The amendment designed to relieve the Council from the duty of passing upon salary increases authorized by the Administrative Board, leaving the matter wholly to the board, aroused a sharp discussion. According to the City Attorney, the amendment would give the board the right to increase salaries in the departments under its control at will, and the Council would be compelled, by mandamus, to be compelled to pay them. Several committee members expressed their disapproval of such a plan, but this amendment, together with all others, was laid on the table for consideration at a future meeting.

To Meet November 24.
The committee voted to meet again on the evening of Monday, November 24, to take action on the amendments proposed and to formulate plans for other amendments. Among those under consideration are changes to place the Fire, Police and Health Departments under the Administrative Board. The City Attorney has deferred drawing up amendments to cover these changes until the committee decides to recommend them.

Councilman Mills questioned City Attorney Pollard as to the committee's right to ask for a charter amendment that would enable the Council at any time in the future it saw fit, to reduce the membership of the Administrative Board from five to three or even a smaller number. Mr. Pollard thought the charter could be amended to give the Council that right, and upon Mr. Mills' request, was asked by Chairman Puller to draw up an amendment to that end.

The City Attorney presented model bills to be introduced in the Legislature, exempting from State taxation (Continued on Third Page.)

OBLIGATIONS UNPAID

London Paper Criticizes Defaulting American States.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] London, November 15.—An open letter to President Wilson on the subject of defaulting States, in the London Financial Times to-day, points out: "That the sole defaulter in Spanish-America is Honduras, while there are at least nine States in North America whose obligations for many years have remained unpaid, viz., Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia. The default of these States, with an aggregate interest, is estimated at upwards of \$250,000,000. Furthermore, several of these States have gone so far as to formally repudiate liability for the mortgages. Some of the excuses put forward are unworthy of serious consideration, and are the usual type offered by dishonest defaulters."

If the United States government is resolved, in the words of ex-President Roosevelt, to see that the South American republics act with decency and pay their debts, it appears that the authorities at Washington should see to it that the same rule be first observed in the United States.

The paper schedules the debts of the defaulting States, stating that they were not raised for war purposes, but were obtained for public works and improvements.

SPENCER CONDEMNED TO DIE

Confessed Slayer of Chicago Dancing Teacher.

Chicago, November 14.—Henry Spencer, confessed slayer of Mrs. Mildred Allison Brown, a Chicago teacher, was tonight found guilty of murder. The jury, which was impaneled after two hours' deliberation, returned a verdict of death by hanging after two hours' deliberation.

Spencer was arrested October 5, in London, in which he declared he had been in for twenty years, most of them in the United States. He had been in the United States for twenty years, most of them in the United States.

Ever since his arrest Spencer has insisted that he be given the death penalty. However, his attitude in the courtroom was one of such violence that the judge, in an effort to save his own life, refused to establish the belief that the defendant was insane.

Spencer was only twice put on the stand for the defense. He was put on the stand for the first time on the morning of the trial, and on the second time on the afternoon of the trial.

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RESERVE NOTES PAYABLE IN GOLD IN RECAST BILL

Democratic Faction
Completes Work on
Currency.

REPORT TO-DAY TO
FULL COMMITTEE

Republicans Not Yet Ready to
Submit Their Measure—Unanimous
Expression on Non-essentials May Be Submitted—Renewed Talk
of Adjournment.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Washington, November 14.—Secretary Bryan has yielded in his demand that the Federal reserve notes, to be issued under authority of the administration's currency law, shall be redeemed either in gold or lawful money.

The most important action by the Democratic members of the Senate Currency Committee to-day was to recast this provision. As it will be reported to the Senate in the administration bill, these notes are to be made legal tender and payable in gold either at the reserve banks or the Treasury.

The result of the action is a gold requirement of 33 1/3 per cent; the reserve for deposits, 33 1/3 per cent in either gold or lawful money. The Federal reserve notes may be used in the reserve held in member banks, but not in the reserve of the regional banks.

The Democratic faction of the committee late this afternoon completed work on the bill and will be prepared to submit it to the full committee when it meets to-morrow. The Republican faction announced to-night that it would not submit its measure before it completes its labor. Senator Hitchcock was chosen chairman of the section of the committee that meets daily in the rooms of the regular committee.

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M'COMBS WILL NOT ACCEPT POST AS AMBASSADOR

Thought It Understood
That He Wants No
Appointment.

CANNOT AFFORD
TO TAKE POSITION

Thinks It More Fun Getting Jobs
for Other People—After Tour
of United States With His
Bride Is Going to Get
Back to Hard
Work.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] New York, November 14.—William F. McCombs, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, returned from Europe to-day on the Mauretania with his bride, who was Miss Dorothy Williams, daughter of Colonel John R. Williams, of Washington.

When Mr. McCombs went abroad he was run down physically and in need of a long rest.

"Big Bill" Edwards, the street cleaning commissioner, met him at the pier to-day and winced when Mr. McCombs gave him a hearty handshake.

"Say, you've come back strong enough," said "Big Bill," smiling generally. "The report that he had agreed to be ambassador to France was vigorously denied by Mr. McCombs."

"I couldn't afford an ambassadorship. The salary at Paris is only \$17,500 a year. I know of one American ambassador who has spent \$200,000 the last year, and another who went over with \$1,500,000 and is now financially broke."

Mr. McCombs was asked if he would retain the Democratic National Committee chairmanship.

"I do not know that any one is after my scalp," he said.

"It is a bit early to predict, but Wilson is 'making good.' There is no doubt about that. I hear a great deal of talk about Roosevelt becoming the Republican nominee in 1916. I believe he will fight for the place, though whether the Republicans will name him I would not attempt to say."

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CARNEGIE OFFER NOT ACCEPTABLE TO METHODISTS

Virginia Conference In-
dorses Rejection of His
Proffered \$1,000,000.

RANDOLPH-MACON
GETS MORE MONEY

Endowment Is Increased and
Additional Funds Given for
Current Expenses—John P.
Branch Receives Thanks
for His Gift of \$25,000
to Institution.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Lynchburg, November 14.—By rising vote, members of the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to-day indorsed the action of the minority members of the board of trustees of Vanderbilt University in vetoing the action of the majority members of the Vanderbilt board. The resolution offered in this connection states that the action of Mr. Carnegie in offering the gift is appreciated, but it is regrettable that he surrounded it with such conditions that it could not be accepted by the church.

Money for Randolph-Macon.
The expression of opinion in connection with the Carnegie offer came up with a report of the board of education, which was submitted by Dr. James Cannon. This report also recommended an enlargement of the endowment of Randolph-Macon College and an increased appropriation for its current expenses. This feature of the report, which was submitted to the conference by James W. Bouldin, the majority report, which had been commended in a letter written by John P. Branch, of Richmond, was adopted. Mr. Branch has recently given \$25,000 to Randolph-Macon College to be used in building the Thomas Branch Memorial Dormitory, and he received the formal thanks of the conference for his gift. The report, as submitted by Dr. Cannon, follows:

"Your board of education presents respect number one to the conference for adoption."

"Resolved, first, That the joint board of finance be, and is hereby instructed, to appropriate \$5,500 to meet the assessment for educational extension and \$12,000 for the benefit of Randolph-Macon College, which may be assessed separately and raised as may seem wise on each charge."

"Resolved, second, That out of the amount raised on the assessment, \$10,000 be appropriated for the benefit of Randolph-Macon College, the executive committee of the college is hereby authorized to set aside \$6,000 per annum for the benefit of the college as a permanent endowment fund of the college, the balance of the amount raised to be used as heretofore for the current expenses of the college."

"Resolved, third, That we request the board of trustees of Randolph-Macon College to develop and strengthen the courses of instruction offered by the college for students preparing for the ministry, and to make the thorough preparation that is possible at present may be obtained by students for the ministry, who are not able to take a full course at a theological seminary."

"Resolved, fourth, That while we fully appreciate the proposition of Mr. Andrew Carnegie to give \$1,000,000 to the medical department of Vanderbilt University, and while we recognize the value of such a gift to the cause of medical science, we greatly regret that in making his proposition, Mr. Carnegie imposed such conditions and used such language as made it impossible for a self-respecting church of Jesus Christ to accept it."

"We indorse the action of the four minority members of the board of trustees of Vanderbilt University in voting against the Carnegie gift, and we regret that the college of bishops, on representation of our church, voted the action of the majority of the board of trustees of the college, which was the proposition of Mr. Carnegie as modified by the self-respecting of the church, vindicated the educational position and work of our church, and emphasized the fact that the college of bishops does not justify the means."

(Signed) "JAMES CANNON, Secretary."

James W. Bouldin, a member of the board of trustees, submitted a minority report to the conference, recommending in the first section of the report of the board, viz., that the assessment for Randolph-Macon College be increased to \$10,000 per annum, and that the college of bishops, on representation of our church, voted the action of the majority of the board of trustees of the college, which was the proposition of Mr. Carnegie as modified by the self-respecting of the church, vindicated the educational position and work of our church, and emphasized the fact that the college of bishops does not justify the means."

The minority report contained, also, a resolution of appreciation to John P. Branch, of Richmond, for his recent gift of \$25,000 to Randolph-Macon College, for the building of the Thomas Branch dormitory, and urged that other laymen of the church follow this example.

Sparking to the minority report Mr. Bouldin said, first, that an increased assessment for Randolph-Macon College would be unfair to other schools of the conference, which are much in need of money with which to conduct their work. Also, that an increase of this assessment at this time would be unfair to pastors who are receiving salaries of not more than \$600, and must meet heavy expenses in connection with their work.

Branch Favors Majority.
Thomas Whitehead, Samuel C. Hatcher and Dr. Cannon spoke in favor of the majority report. Dr. Cannon read the report of the board, which favored the majority, written by Dr. Hatcher, secretary and treasurer of the college, and said that Mr. Branch made it known that he would contribute nothing toward the college until after the recent action of the college touching the relation of the college to the conference, and Dr. Cannon then stated that the adoption of the majority report would be the completion of the endowment fund of the college would give

(Continued on Second Page.)

GRAND OPERA IN ENGLISH